

CLAIMS

1. A lubricant composition characterized by comprising a lubricating base oil, a calcium sulfonate-based thickener and fine particles.

2. The lubricant composition according to claim 1, wherein the calcium sulfonate-based thickener is a complex of calcium sulfonate and at least one kind of calcium salt selected from among the following calcium salts:

- (i) calcium carbonate,
- (ii) a higher fatty acid calcium salt,
- (iii) a lower fatty acid calcium salt, and
- (iv) calcium borate.

3. The lubricant composition according to claim 1, wherein the fine particles are any one kind of fine particles selected from among the following particles:

- (A) buffer particles, used when one of both gears is made of a resin and the other is made of a metal,
- (B) particles having intermediate hardness made of a material which is softer than a tooth surface made of a metal and is harder than a tooth surface made of a resin, used when one of both gears is made of the resin and the other is made of the metal, and

(C) metal particles made of a metal which is softer than a tooth surface made of a metal, used when both gears are made of the metal.

4. The lubricant composition according to claim 3, wherein the fine particles are buffer particles.

5. The lubricant composition according to claim 4, wherein an average particle diameter D_1 of the buffer particles is within a range of $50 \mu\text{m} < D_1 \leq 300 \mu\text{m}$.

6. The lubricant composition according to claim 4, wherein a proportion of the buffer particles contained is from 20 to 300 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of a total amount of the lubricating base oil and the calcium sulfonate-based thickener.

7. The lubricant composition according to claim 1, wherein a kinematic viscosity of the lubricating base oil is from 5 to $200 \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$ (40°C) and a mixing consistency (25°C) of the lubricant composition is from 265 to 475.

8. A speed reduction gear characterized by comprising a small gear and a large gear, wherein a region including an engaging portion of the both gears is filled with the

lubricant composition of claim 1.

9. An electric power steering apparatus characterized in that an output of an electric motor for steering assist is transmitted to a steering mechanism by reducing its speed through the speed reduction gear of claim 8.